

# ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful half term. It has been a delight to welcome the children back to what is now the second half of the academic year. The children have returned with their usual enthusiasm and are already making great progress.

The Worship Council has started the term with great industry. They continue to lead collective worship at Saint Mary's and they have shown great skill and sensitivity in doing so.

As well as this, Worship Councillors went on the first of two community outreach events this half-term and served food at Saint Mary's Church. It was inspiring to see children from Saint Mary's living out our school vision, 'Love one another as I have loved you'.

In a similar vein, with the commencement of Lent, all St Mary's Pupils are being encouraged to complete "20 Acts of Kindness" before Easter. This is an opportunity to reinforce the school's Christian values in a tangible way: children will be able to make conscious decisions to be positive agents of change in the local community. We look forward to seeing the creativity, passion and effort that we know our wonderful pupils will put into their acts of kindness. Children have until April 21st to submit their sponsorship forms and hand in monies raised to their teachers in a sealed envelope with the child's name clearly displayed. All monies raised will go towards supporting refugees in Waltham Forest.

Before half term, we had the first of our 'Visionary Assemblies'. This will be a series of assemblies we hope will inspire the children. In the first of this series, we were joined (online) by Ariane Dellavalle, a PhD student in Life Sciences at Imperial College, who shared with the children her research on ecosystems and birds. We are lucky enough to be joined next week by Rabbi Lev Taylor and have multiple other speakers lined up for the Spring and Summer terms, including charity workers, faith leaders and people working in science and technology.

The science fair was an enormous success and I want to thank you all for your contributions and attendance. I was staggered by the number and quality of projects at the science fair. It was a joyous occasion, showcasing the ingenuity and curiosity of so many of our pupils. I was happy that we were able to share the event with so many of you and would like to extend my gratitude to all of the members of staff who were involved in the set up and running of the showcase. A particular thank you to Ms Simpson and Miss Jackson who were instrumental in organizing the event. Most importantly, a thank you to all of the children who submitted their projects and were, justifiably, proud to share and demonstrate them.

Finally, on Friday 10th March 2023 we are having a non-uniform day in order to raise money to support the relief effort of the British Red Cross following the tragic earthquake in Syria and Turkey. We ask that children bring in a donation of £1 on this day.

I would like to end with a reflection from Proverbs 3:17.

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."

Best wishes,  
Mr Pitchford.

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.26%.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 93.83%.**

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 95.16%

## **Gentle Reminder:**

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

*Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.*

**If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.**

# Presentation Awards

Year 1: Rafferty & Esme

Year 2: Cerys & Alice

Year 3: Leona & Carys

Year 4: Ginny & Theo E

Year 5: Nikola Y

Year 6: Angeline



# Important Messages

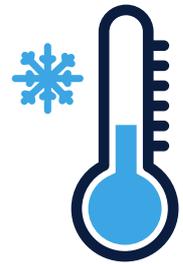
## Medication

If your child has medication in school, please ensure that you have noted down the expiry dates to ensure we have the correct medication in school. If your child's doctor has made any changes to their medication or the procedure for caring for your child, please ensure the office is informed in writing of any changes and receives a copy of the documents from the GP.



## Cold Weather

As the temperature are getting colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm winter coat that is labelled. The temperature is dropping fast and we want the children to be dressed appropriately. However still continue to bring in their own water bottle.



## Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in the bag at our Chestnut Avenue South Gate. A large amount of the uniform is not named, if your child is missing any of their items, please could you check the bag for any missing items.



## Large Bags

Unfortunately, many children are bringing very large backpacks to school. There is little storage space available for such large bags and they pose a trip hazard. Please send your child to school with the smallest bag possible - ideally a bookbag.



# Values

## Dreams and aspirations

This week we have been reflecting on the theme of dreams and aspirations. There are many passages of the Bible which remind us that God will support and encourage us with our ambitions; all we have to do is pray.

For example, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart", from Psalm 37:4 shows us that those who have a positive relationship with God can trust in Him to provide for them everything they dream of.

In the Bible, Joseph in Genesis 37 had some prophetic dreams which made him very unpopular with his brothers:

" Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind."

His dreams turn out to be visions of the future, which are realised later in the story.

We have also been thinking deeply about how to identify our dreams and especially how to identify those dreams that God will want to help us with. For example, we might dream of winning the lottery and buying ourselves an expensive house, but is this a dream that God would approve of? We have interrogated our dreams and aspirations and made sure we are working towards those that are Godly. The children have been writing their own dreams and aspirations in their class prayer books this week and have come up with many unselfish and altruistic ideas. Many of us aspire to professions where we will be able to make a difference, such as doctor, teacher or environmentalist and others set out their dreams and aspirations for the world of the future; a world with less pollution, fewer wars and more charity towards those in need.

Our worship councillors have already been putting their charitable aspirations into action this week, going to help Vanessa serve soup to our local community in the grounds of St Mary's church this week. They brightened the evenings of many people and gave a fantastic representation of St Mary's School and our vision of engaging with our community needs.

God wants us to dream and aspire to do and be something that is great; something that can make a difference. This is clear throughout the whole Bible. Achieving a dream is not easy. Cristiano Ronaldo had a dream when he was younger. It wasn't easy. He had a tough upbringing and had to move countries in order to make his dream happen. He also works relentlessly every day to be fitter, stronger and more skillful, so that he can achieve his dream. Sometimes we face obstacles, but with the help of God and others, we can overcome them.



# Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

**We are proud to be a nut free school!**



# Professor Bubbleworks



Professor Daniel Bubbleworks visited St Mary's and showed the children various exciting experiments.

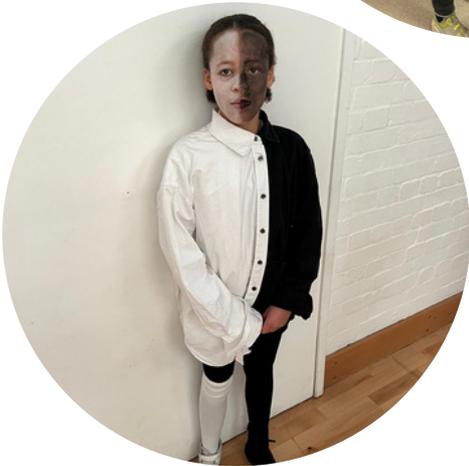
## St Mary's FoodShare



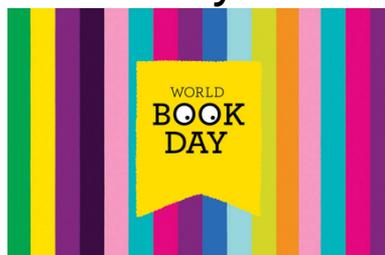
Our St Mary's Worship Council supported St Mary's Church offering hot soup and rolls to the local community as part of the Foodshare Project. Our next event is on Thursday 23rd of March from 4pm to 5pm.

Please come and join us!

# World Book Day



At St Mary's, we had some incredible outfits for our World Book Day!



# Food Bank



We have now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming donations of tinned goods and non perishable items.

The food bank is open for any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. You are welcome to come into the office at any time to collect items that you may need.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support our local community.

## Walthamstow Cafe

# WALTHAMSTOW WELCOMES

**DROP IN COMMUNITY CAFÉ &  
PAPERWORK SUPPORT**



**ST MARY'S WELCOME CENTRE**

**8 CHURCH END, E17 9RJ | 10:00—12:00**

**[E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org](mailto:E17welcomecafe@stmaryswalthamstow.org)**



# Parent Prayer

Parent Prayer is on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm on Zoom- twenty minutes of prayer and reflection. A relaxing space for parents to come together at the end of the day. All are welcome!

If you would like the zoom link, please email Jacintha Danaswamy at:  
[jacintha@stmaryswalthamstow.org](mailto:jacintha@stmaryswalthamstow.org).



# Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



# RED NOSE DAY

DRESS UP IN YOUR BEST  
FANCY COSTUME

FRIDAY 17TH OF MARCH  
2023



# Opportunities in Little Learners' Nursery

LITTLE LEARNERS  
NURSERY GROUP  
ST MARY'S  
BROOKE RD  
WALTHAMSTOW  
LONDON  
E17 9HJ



Little Learners  
NURSERY GROUP

LITTLE LEARNERS  
NURSERY GROUP  
ST SAVIOUR'S  
33 VERULAM  
AVENUE  
WALTHAMSTOW  
LONDON  
E17 8ER

# WE ARE HIRING!

**OPEN POSITIONS**

**BANK STAFF**

**(WORK WHEN IT'S SUITS YOU!)**

**APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE**

**MUST BE 17 YEARS OLD PLUS**

**APPLY NOW**

**SEND YOUR CV TO**

[alison.brown@genesistrust.net](mailto:alison.brown@genesistrust.net)

020 8521 1066 Extension 2

[HTTPS://STMARYSNURSERY.NET/NURSERY-GROUP/](https://stmarysnursery.net/nursery-group/)



**Come in!**  
**For tasty food**  
**and good company**



**Free meals**  
**Thursdays**  
**6.30pm**



**FoodCycle**  
**Walthamstow**  
St Mary's  
Welcome Centre  
Church End  
E17 9RH



# Sit and eat with us

Come inside for a  
warm, tasty meal.

Please do not  
attend if you are  
unwell or have  
COVID symptoms.

Website: [www.foodcycle.org.uk](http://www.foodcycle.org.uk)  
Email: [walthamstow@foodcycle.org.uk](mailto:walthamstow@foodcycle.org.uk)  
Phone: 02077 292 775  
Registered Charity Number 1134423



# Young Transformers

Our Spring Curriculum



## **EYFS - Creative**

Mindful Movement origins can be found 5000 years ago in Northern India. Yoga is more popular than ever before. It is not only brilliant for your physical health but also for your mental health. Reception children will learn what yoga is and see that yoga can be performed by people of all ages (yes, even babies). They will work with a yoga teacher on simple yoga techniques. By nurturing our bodies, we look after the mind as well.

## **Year 1- Caring**

We are lucky enough to have three alpacas at St Saviours: Captain, Marshall and Marvin. In year 1, the children will learn about these amazing creatures and have the opportunity to visit them. They might even want to be taken for a walk (only if you give them a snack). Afterwards, children will get to visit the Forest school to build fires, shelters and bug houses. By being gentle and showing care to animals, we show true love to God's Creation. .

## **Year 2 – Creative**

Dancing is not only a way to keep fit, but also a form of art. In Year 2. Children will learn why people enjoy dancing and how dance is expressed in different parts of the world. They will work with a professional dancer to devise a dance for performance. With their peers they will learn to keep to the beat, execute dance moves and find joy in dancing. By dancing together, we celebrate our bodies just the way they are.

## **Year 3 - Caring**

Bake to educate: education changes lives but many girls around the world do not have the same opportunities. Children will learn how young girls in some parts of the world miss out on education and how this affects their life chances. Pupils will plan, prepare, bake and sell cakes to support girls around the world in less fortunate circumstances. By educating all children, we offer them the opportunity to make a positive change.

## **Year 4 - Creative**

The drum is the oldest musical instrument. Year 4 children will learn where the drum originated and how it is played in different parts of the world. They will work with professional drummers in a workshop to create their own drumming piece which will be performed to the school. By beating the drum, we get into the rhythm

## **Year 5 - Community**

Children will learn where the idea of an English afternoon tea came from and what afternoon tea includes. This knowledge will be used for pupils to prepare their own class afternoon tea including cups and saucers. Of course Year 5 will need to dress up in their best clothing. By studying our traditions, we strengthen our own identity.

## **Year 6 - Caring**

In computing, Year 6 will use the Tinkercad programme to design and print key rings for our new autumn term pupils in EYFS. A welcome gift from our oldest pupils. By reaching out your hand with a gift for someone new, you show true friendship.

## **Home- Mandatory Confidence**

At the start of a new year, it is important to take another step into independence. Pupils are encouraged to learn how to change their bedding at home, including pillowcases and duvet covers. There is no harm in working together on this. By taking charge of day to day routines, we learn how to step with confidence into the world

# ST MARY'S TERM DATES 2022-23

## **Spring Term 2023**

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Tuesday 3rd January 2023

End - Friday 10th February 2023

Half Term: Monday 13th February 2023 – Friday 17th February 2023

Second Half (30 Days)

Start - Monday 20th February 2023

End – Friday 31st March 2023

Holidays: Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April 2023

## **Summer Term 2023**

First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 17th April 2023

End -Friday 26th May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 - Friday 2nd June 2023

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 29th May 2023 (during Half Term)

Second Half (37 Days)

Start - Monday 5th June 2023

End – Tuesday 25th July 2023

This calendar gives a total of 195 (189 pupil days 1 building closure day, 1 resource and environment day and 3 inset days – Staff to work twilight sessions to make up 1 inset day).

# St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU  
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF  
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND  
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU  
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I  
HAVE LOVED YOU.  
(JOHN 15).